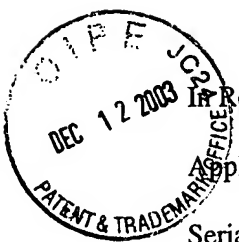


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application of:

Applicant(s): Keith Peltason et al.

Serial No.: 10/657,935

Conf. No.: 1598

Filed: September 8, 2003

For: WATER SOFTENER  
MANIFOLD RETAINER ASSEMBLY

Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Unassigned

) I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the  
 ) United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an  
 ) envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents; P.O.  
 ) Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

December 9, 2003

Date

*Lawrence J. Crain*  
 Attorney for Applicants  
 Registration No. 31,497

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS &amp; CRAIN, LTD.

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By:

*Lawrence J. Crain*Lawrence J. Crain  
Registration No. 31,497

DEC 12 2003

Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce  
(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket No.: 0308.67558

Serial No.: 10/657,935

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Keith Peltason et al.

Filing Date: September 8, 2003

Group: 1723

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,032,821	Mar. 7, 2000	Martin et al.			Jun. 3, 1998

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner

Date Considered

\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.